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General and complete disarmament

The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.47

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 10, 12 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.47, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene a Conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[1] the date and venue to be decided at its fifty-eighth session;

(b) Also decide to convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis, commencing in 2003, to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to ensure that resources and expertise are made available to the Secretariat to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to undertake a United Nations study, commencing during its fifty-sixth session, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by States in a position to do so, and with the assistance of governmental experts appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, while seeking the views of States, to examining the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons and to submit the study to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

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(e) Request the Secretary-General, within existing resources, through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on implementation by those States of the Programme of Action;

(f) Also request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work

2. The activities referred to above would fall under programme 2, Disarmament, and programme 6, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.[2]

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to operative paragraph 2, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would serve as the substantive secretariat for the biennial meeting of States in 2003.

4. Pursuant to operative paragraph 8, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would need to undertake additional initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of the Programme of action on small arms and light weapons, such as liaising with relevant government officials and with subregional, regional and international organizations; conducting research on various aspects of the small arms and light weapons issue; carrying out advocacy and outreach programmes with various sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations; organizing seminars, workshops and training programmes at the international, regional and subregional levels aimed at enhancing the capacity of States to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and at promoting cooperation and coordination among States.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraph 10, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would organize and service, in 2002 and 2003, three sessions of the group of governmental experts on the basis of equitable geographical representation and assist in preparing a report on the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons.

6. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would receive, collate and circulate data and information provided by States, on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on implementation by those States of the Programme of action. This would require, inter alia, the establishment of a computerized database that would store the submitted data and information.

IV. Modification of the programme of work and the programme budget for 2002-2003[3]

7. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft resolution, the narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be modified to amend the outputs already foreseen in respect of small arms and light

weapons issues. Subject to the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, that narrative will be incorporated into the final version of the programme of work of section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

Outputs

Paragraph 4.29 (a)

Under servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, add the following:

(x) First biennial meeting of States to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of action (2003);

(xi) Group of governmental experts on the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons (1 session in 2002, 2 sessions in 2003);

Under parliamentary documentation, add the following:

Report on the implementation of the current resolution (1, 2002);

Paragraph 4.29 (b)

Under other substantive activities, add the following:

(vi) Design and establishment of a computerized database of information provided by States on a voluntary basis on implementation of the Programme of action on small arms and light weapons;

V. Estimates of resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

8. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for three sessions of the group of governmental experts referred to in operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution are estimated at $715,100. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the biennial meeting of States referred to in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution are estimated at $362,600. The extent to which the Organization's capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conference and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003. However, provision is made under the relevant section for conference services of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriation would be required for conference-servicing costs.

9. With regard to the Conference referred to in operative paragraph 1, to be convened no later than year 2006, it is not possible at this point to estimate the related conference-servicing requirements. If the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution and a mandate is given for the convening of such a conference, the

necessary resource requirements would have to be reflected in the context of the budget outline and the proposed programme budget for the relevant biennium.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

10. Current staff resources under section 4 of the proposed programme budget a e fully seized with activities as outlined in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Therefore, in order to prepare, organize and service the biennial meeting, the expert group meetings as well as to promote the Programme of action on small arms and light weapons, as described in paragraph 4 above, additional staff would be required for the Department for Disarmament Affairs as a consequence of operative paragraphs 2, 8 and 10. Consultancy services would also be required to provide expertise in addressing the issues to be considered by the biennial meeting of States and those to be considered by the group of governmental experts, including the preparation of the final reports and other documentation.

11. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 10, additional resources would also be required for the travel of up to 20 experts for three one-week meetings in New York.

12. With respect to operative paragraph 12, the establishment, upgrading and maintenance of the database for the purpose of collating and disseminating information received from States would require staff from the Department for Disarmament Affairs with political expertise, especially in the area of small arms and light weapons. Such expertise is currently not available within the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

13. With regard to the Conference referred to in operative paragraph 1, to be convened no later than 2006, it is not possible at this point to estimate the related resource requirements. If the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution and a mandate is given for the convening of such a conference, the necessary resource requirements would have to be reflected in the context of the budget outline and the proposed programme budget for the relevant biennium.

14. It is anticipated, therefore, that the work outlined in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 above would require the establishment of one P-4 level post and one General Service (Other level) post as well as five workweeks of consultancy services and resources for travel of experts.

15. The additional requirements for the implementation of the programme of work outlined in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 are estimated at $559,800 as follows: $456,100 under section 4, Disarmament, $59,900 under section 27 D, Office of Central Support Services, and $43,800 under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The details of these requirements are as follows:

Posts	
P-4 level Political Affairs Officer	138 000
General Service (Other level)	79 000
	217 000
Consultants	
Biennial meeting	
Fee (2 workweeks @ $2,000 per week)	4 000
Travel $2,500 + $3,575 ($275 x 13 days) +160	6 200
Expert group	
Fee (3 workweeks @ $2,000 per week)	6 000
Travel $2,500 + $1,650 ($275 x 6 days) + $160 x 3 trips	12 900
	29 100
Ad hoc experts	
Travel of 20 participants to three five-day meetings $3,500 x 60	210 000
Common service costs	
Requirements in respect of 1 P-4 and 1 GS (OL)	59 900
Subtotal	**516 000**
Section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment	43 800
Total	**559 800**

VI. Potential for absorption

16. No provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 in relation to the Programme of action on small arms and light weapons. At this stage, and notwithstanding the use of the wording "within existing resources" in the draft resolution, these requirements could not be absorbed within the existing resources under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. This position is consistent with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and paragraph 66 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[4] as subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/249. Consequently, if additional funds are not provided, the mandated activities may not be implemented.

Annex

Estimates for the three sessions of Group of governmental experts, to be convened in 2002 and 2003 and the biennial meeting of States to be convened in 2003[a]

	Group of governmental experts	*Biennial meeting of States*	*Total estimates*
(a) Conference-servicing costs			
Meeting servicing	192 000	63 700	255 700
Pre-session documentation	108 500	59 200	167 700
In-session documentation	247 800	173 200	421 000
Post-session documentation	143 600	58 900	202 500
Other conference services	23 200	7 600	30 800
Subtotal (a)	**715 100**	**362 600**	**1 077 700**
(b) Non-conference servicing costs			
1 temporary post at the P-4 level for 24 work-months[b]	138 000		138 000
1 temporary post at the GS (OL) level for 24 work-months[b]	79 000		79 000
Consultants (3 workweeks for the biennial meeting and 3 workweeks for the expert group)	10 200	18 900	29 100
Travel of participants to the expert group meetings (20 participants)	210 000		210 000
Common service costs in respect of 1 P-4 and 1 GS (OL)	59 900		59 900
Subtotal (b)	**497 100**	**18 900**	**516 000**
Total net	**1 212 200**	**381 500**	**1 533 800**
(c) Staff assessment	43 800		43 800
Grand total (gross)	**1 256 000**	**381 500**	**1 637 500**

[a] All figures are rounded to the nearest $100.

[b] The incumbent of the post will undertake work related to both the expert groups and the 2003 biennial meetings of States, as well as other work related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.